

# NEW SOUTH WALES.

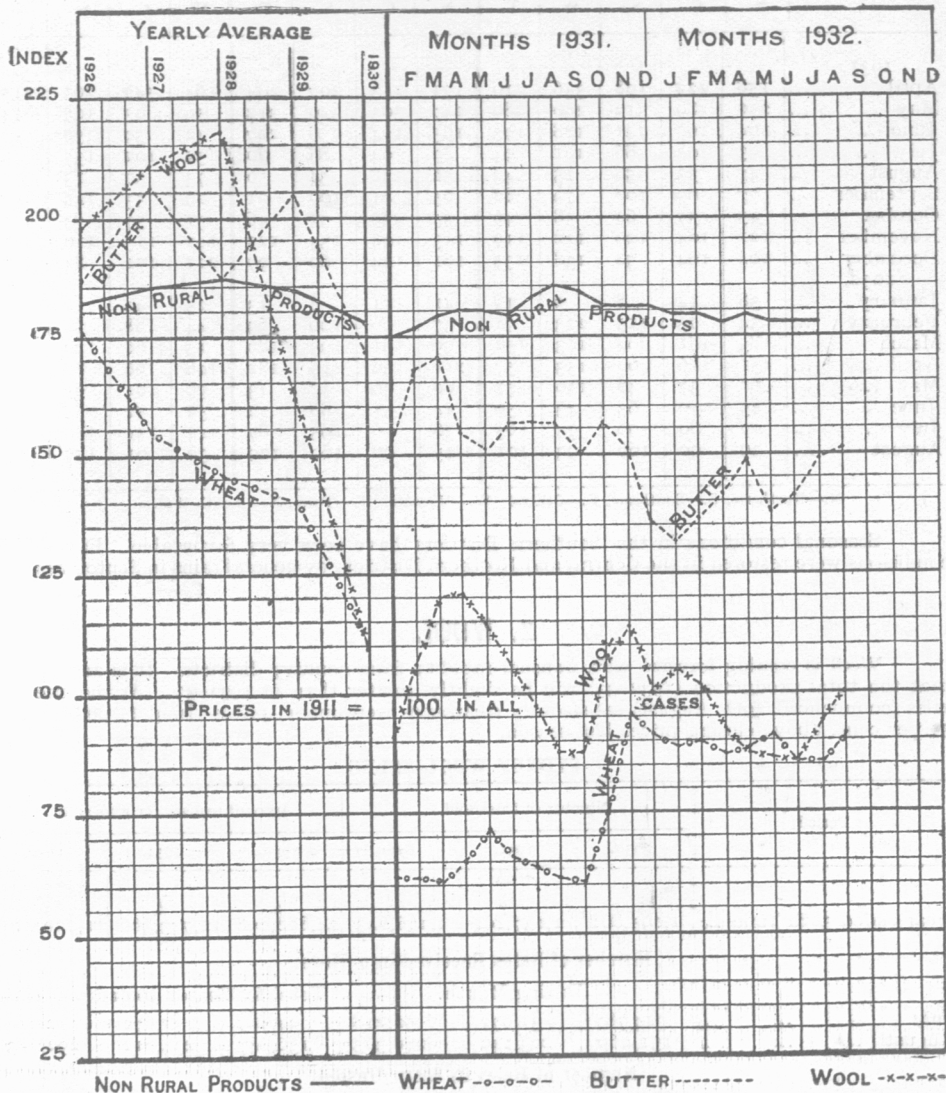
## MONTHLY SUMMARY OF BUSINESS STATISTICS.

No. 17. September 23, 1932.

Issued by T. Waites, Government Statistician.

### INDEX OF WHOLESALE PRICES (SYDNEY).

Average for year 1911 = 100.



All prices are in Australian currency. The indexes for recent months are shown in table 23 on page 11 of this summary. The footnotes to that table apply also to this graph.

\*84297-A

[Price, 3d.]

## SECTION A.—RAINFALL AND PRODUCTION.

### 1. RAINFALL—INDEX.

Index showing Weighted Average Ratio of Actual to Normal Rainfall.  
(Average rainfall for each month = 100.)

Month.	Sheep Districts.					Wheat Districts.				Dairying Districts.			
	N.	C.	S.	W.	T.	N.	C.	S.	T.	N.	C.	S.	T.
1931.													
April ...	158	222	198	346	210	171	213	207	204	164	347	201	215
May ...	230	289	312	290	280	247	305	329	312	59	93	107	74
June ...	164	169	241	188	193	193	174	256	227	42	59	50	47
July ...	93	103	86	101	94	89	94	88	90	52	102	137	76
August ...	47	33	58	15	43	56	38	54	50	73	30	13	54
September ...	77	69	100	79	82	65	81	100	91	29	53	145	50
October ...	43	37	60	38	46	35	39	51	46	51	37	73	51
November ...	121	104	129	122	119	113	104	134	123	142	115	110	131
December ...	194	164	58	138	135	181	144	60	97	221	132	84	181
1932.													
January ...	38	14	8	2	17	41	11	8	13	23	49	8	28
February ...	34	73	113	223	91	37	66	126	99	44	88	73	59
March ...	85	181	202	103	152	99	191	193	180	15	66	129	43
April ...	151	116	200	153	157	111	132	216	181	108	66	86	94
May ...	61	37	46	130	57	60	36	42	43	96	101	65	93
June ...	45	50	63	43	59	44	51	86	72	52	52	14	47
July ...	77	80	100	74	85	76	76	95	87	44	134	119	77
August ...	39	90	166	93	101	45	96	160	129	32	61	157	55

N.—Northern; S.—Southern; C.—Central; W.—Western; T.—Total, New South Wales.

Seasonal conditions in the Southern Districts have been very favourable. Favourable conditions were restored in the Central and Northern Districts by general rains in September.

### 2. WOOL.

Wool is coming forward with unusual rapidity from country districts. It is anticipated that the total production (1932-33) will be slightly greater than in 1931-32. At the opening sales (commenced 29th August) satisfactory clearances were made, prices rising 25 per cent. to 30 per cent. above closing prices last season.

#### SYDNEY WOOL SALES.

Period.	Number of bales sold.			Amount realised for wool sold.		
	1930.	1931.	1932.	1930.	1931.	1932.
Year ended 30th June ...	1,095,861	1,037,497	1,176,643	14,888,098	11,743,360	12,726,626

#### Number of Bales Received into Store.

	During Month.			Total for Season to end of Month.		
July ...	24,787	31,672	52,218	24,787	31,672	52,218
August ...	131,860	203,140	240,365	156,647	234,812	292,583

#### Number of Bales in Store Unsold.

31st August ...	151,676	223,877	259,352	...	...	...
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The course of wool prices is shown in Table 23.

### 3. WHEAT.

Progress tabulations indicate that the area sown with wheat for 1932-33 was about 4,750,000 acres. Continued dry weather in August destroyed the prospects of some crops in the Central and Northern Districts, but the progress of crops in the South and excellent general rains in September give prospects of a good harvest.

#### WHEAT AND FLOUR EXPORTED OVERSEA FROM NEW SOUTH WALES (DIRECT).

Month.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.	1929-30.	1930-31.	1931-32.
	Bushels of Wheat.			Tons of Flour.		
June ... ..	69,443	3,207,287	263,930	10,304	17,043	10,959
July ... ..	259,182	3,959,155	611,053	15,708	12,055	19,500
August ... ..	925,942	793,757	38,900	12,807	17,405	14,389
	<b>WHEAT AND FLOUR.</b>					
	Bushels of Wheat (Equivalent).			Value £.		
December ... ..	776,908	3,593,337	4,537,605	187,388	487,866	737,355
January ... ..	509,066	3,387,859	5,830,820	122,541	432,109	986,683
February ... ..	528,378	4,226,878	6,273,300	126,663	447,882	1,013,169
March ... ..	610,739	8,209,881	4,674,823	135,683	923,968	735,213
April ... ..	558,079	4,712,172	2,664,881	120,272	525,948	433,343
May ... ..	654,098	3,967,911	2,319,877	142,820	489,707	373,318
June ... ..	560,129	4,018,877	785,799	118,291	449,064	120,914
July ... ..	1,007,206	4,533,184	1,539,648	196,732	474,846	237,894
August ... ..	1,535,809	1,622,557	724,117	296,200	190,422	102,039
Total (9 months) ...	6,740,412	38,272,656	29,350,870	1,446,590	4,421,812	4,739,928

The exportable surplus in the current season (ending 30th November next) is estimated at upwards of 38,000,000 bushels. Direct oversea exports of wheat and grain in the first nine months of the current season have been 29,350,000 bushels. On 3rd September, 1932, the quantity of wheat grain stored in silos and on railway premises was 8,000,000 bushels. Stocks of grain and flour with millers and bakers are not recorded.

The course of wheat prices is shown in Table 23.

### 4. BUTTER.

The production of butter in factories for year ended 30th June, 1932, constitutes a record being approximately 5 per cent. greater than the previous record year, 1924-25. Despite dry weather, production is still being maintained at a high seasonal level.

Month.	Output of Butter (New South Wales factories).		Butter exported oversea (New South Wales).			
	1931.	1932.	Quantity.		Value.	
			1931.	1932.	1931.	1932.
	Thousand lb.		Thousand lb.		£	
Year ended June 30th ...	109,292	118,448	31,389	39,463	1,676,247	1,990,564
Total, Jan.-July ...	67,194	67,473	21,294	22,880	1,180,904	1,110,976
January ... ..	9,913	13,879	2,883	7,901	144,211	374,938
February ... ..	10,662	11,581	3,855	5,092	230,461	245,812
March ... ..	12,384	9,804	5,437	3,936	313,396	197,188
April ... ..	10,813	9,999	4,343	1,708	235,051	91,360
May ... ..	9,128	8,991	2,411	2,550	128,752	118,755
June ... ..	7,704	7,205	1,120	906	61,667	43,675
July ... ..	6,590	6,013	1,245	786	67,366	39,248
August ... ..	6,771	...	1,296	1,037	68,471	53,246

The course of butter prices is shown in table 23.

## 5. COAL.

In the absence of monthly records of production, the best available indications of trends in the industry are provided by railway haulings and exports :—

Month.	Coal Hauled by Government Railways.†			Coal Exported from New South Wales.†	
	1928.	1931.	1932.	1931.	1932.
	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.	tons.
Twelve months ended 30th June ...	...	4,466,314	4,375,436	2,433,428	2,312,165
January ... ..	546,533	296,226	325,634	167,139	157,956
February ... ..	502,801	336,764	370,813	193,638	197,860
March ... ..	522,006	366,620	385,149	220,832	204,060
April ... ..	427,279	282,425	377,698	133,669	191,103
May ... ..	572,078	399,174	386,360	222,633	186,555
June ... ..	515,271	409,901	396,098	236,301	207,015
July ... ..	585,437	410,852	417,092	213,745	198,500*
August ... ..	568,620	312,314	370,000*	187,376	182,000*
Total eight months ... ..	4,240,025	2,814,276	3,028,844*	1,575,333	1,525,049*

\* Approximate.

† Cargo and bunker, Oversea and Interstate.

‡ Excludes coal used by the Railway Department and coal shipped or used in New South Wales without being hauled over Government railways.

## 6. MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY.

Tabulations embracing monthly returns from 42 large factories show the following results which afford some indication of trends in the manufacturing industry :—

Month.	Factory Sales.			Employees.			Weekly Salaries and Wages.		
	1930.	1931.	1932.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1930.	1931.	1932.
	Thousand £.			Hundreds.			Hundred £.		
January ... ..	2,553	1,982	1,822	180	135	137	776	542	497
February ... ..	2,630	1,993	2,108	179	140	141	769	535	519
March ... ..	2,607	1,977	2,273	174	142	144	732	539	535
April ... ..	2,351	1,867	2,019	167	140	144	697	531	529
May... ..	2,384	1,929	1,989	162	137	142	667	526	523
June ... ..	2,130	1,879	1,823	159	137	139	638	506	501
July... ..	2,312	1,986	1,887	153	135	142	620	516	520
August ... ..	2,071	1,845	...	152	136	...	598	514	...
September ... ..	2,131	1,889	...	152	140	...	566	519	...
October ... ..	2,208	1,914	...	150	142	...	555	539	...
November ... ..	2,204	2,050	...	149	142	...	553	528	...
December ... ..	2,222	2,265	...	141	142	...	596	527	...
Average (January-July) ... ..	2,422	1,945	1,989	168	138	141	700	528	518

## 7. BUILDING INDUSTRY.

### PERMITS TO ERECT NEW BUILDINGS.

	Total Value for Six Months ended 30th June.			Country Municipalities (June Quarter).		Suburbs. (Month of July).		Suburbs (Month of August).	
	City.†	Suburbs.	Country.‡	No.	Value of Buildings.	No.	Value of Buildings.	No.	Value of Buildings.
	£	£	£		£		£		£
1930	*	1,633,875	1,285,145	485	439,217	151	196,299	127	172,146
1931	636,272	283,361	371,718	246	112,390	35	52,890	27	30,978
1932	114,181	237,548	309,953	263	122,392	56	55,708	75	76,595

\* Not available.

† New buildings and additions.

Metropolitan Area.

‡ Municipalities and seven Shires adjoining

Figures as to permits to erect new buildings show in advance the trend in the building industry. Comparative figures for previous months, quarters and years, are shown on page 21 of the "New South Wales Statistical Bulletin" for June Quarter, 1932.



## SECTION B.—TRADE.

## 8. VALUE OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

To and from New South Wales direct Oversea.

	Month of August.			Two Months ended 31st August.		
	Imports.	Exports.*	Excess of Exports.*	Imports.	Exports.*	Excess of Exports.*
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1930 ...	2,792,143	1,433,652	(—) 1,358,491	6,129,176	3,616,423	(—) 2,512,753
1931 ...	1,784,756	1,437,911	(—) §346,845	3,119,331	3,032,547	(—) §86,784
1932† ...	2,329,589	1,409,077	(—) §920,512	4,188,419	2,700,375	(—) §1,488,044

(—) Denotes excess of Imports.

§ See notes below.

† Subject to revision.

\* Excluding gold specie valued at £5,000 and £212,683 for the month of August in the years 1930 and 1932, respectively and at £23,092, £3,132, and £408,139 for the two months ended 31st August, 1930, 1931, and 1932, respectively.

(Australian currency values.)

The values of imports represent the cost f.o.b. port of export plus 10 per cent., and are recorded in English currency. The values of exports are the values in the principal markets of New South Wales, less bonuses on butter, &c., and are recorded in Australian currency. The excess of imports marked § above is consequently understated.

## 9. WHOLESALE TRADE.

AMOUNT of Recorded Sales (New South Wales) under Sales Tax Act.

Month.	Taxable Goods.	Exempt Goods.	Total.	Month.	Taxable Goods.	Exempt Goods.	Total.
1930.		Million £		1931.		Million £	
October ...	5·07	5·96	11·03	October ...	4·84	5·63	10·47
November ...	5·26	5·74	11·00	November ...	4·80	5·71	10·51
December ...	5·47	6·30	11·77	December ...	4·91	6·56	11·47
1931.				Total, 1931 ...	58·32	63·90	122·22
January ...	4·20	5·13	9·33	1932.			
February ...	4·56	5·15	9·71	January ...	4·53	5·36	9·89
March ...	4·82	4·82	9·64	February ...	4·76	4·76	9·52
April ...	5·27	6·10	11·37	March ...	5·05	4·50	9·55
May ...	5·16	4·65	9·81	April ...	5·39	4·78	10·17
June ...	5·64	5·07	10·71	May ...	5·03	5·14	10·17
July ...	4·63	5·02	9·65	June ...	4·67	4·94	9·61
August ...	4·68	4·42	9·10	July ...	4·66	5·43	10·09
September ...	4·81	5·64	10·45				

The amounts of sales of taxable goods represent the approximate trend of wholesale trade in local and imported secondary products. An increased rate of tax was imposed on 11th July, 1931. The total sales for the seven months ended July, 1932, were £69,000,000, compared with £70,220,000 in the corresponding period of 1931.

## RETAIL TRADE.

Returns collected by the Retail Traders' Association in conjunction with the Commonwealth Bank from a number of large city stores indicate the following comparisons for the month of June, 1931 and 1932:—Value of goods sold during month, decrease 3·9 per cent; value of stocks at end of month, decrease 7·3 per cent.; Wages and salaries paid during month, decrease 8·1 per cent.; average number of employees, increase 5·4 per cent.

## SECTION C.—TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC.

## 10. RAILWAYS.

## NEW SOUTH WALES RAILWAYS REVENUE AND BUSINESS.

The financial results of operations were :—

	Month of July.			Year ended 30th June.		
	Gross Revenue.	Working Expenses.*	Excess of Revenue over Working Expenses.	Gross Revenue.	Working Expenses.*	Excess of Revenue over Working Expenses.
1930 ...	£ 1,248,691	£ 1,137,229	£ 111,462	£ 17,826,692	£ 14,962,423	£ 2,864,269
1931 ...	1,155,999	1,031,330	124,669	15,205,741	12,899,646	2,306,095
1932 ...	1,199,125	998,383	200,742	15,001,022	12,524,232	2,476,790

\* Interest and Sinking Fund on loan capital are not included as working expenses.

The amount of interest chargeable against the railways in 1930-31 was £6,790,082, exclusive of £737,633 exchange.

	Month of July.		Year ended 30th June.	
	Net Goods Ton-mileage.*	Passenger Journeys.	Net Goods Ton-mileage.*	Passenger Journeys.
	thousands.	thousands.	thousands.	thousands.
1930 ...	115,937	10,876	1,566,535	147,893
1931 ...	110,361	9,685	1,489,880	126,812
1932 ...	93,599	10,955	1,479,313	128,359

\*Goods (including wayleave) and live stock. Ton-mileage represents the weight times the distance (miles) it was carried.

## 11. TRAMWAYS.

## NEW SOUTH WALES TRAMWAYS.

	Sydney and Suburbs.			Newcastle and Suburbs.		
	Earnings.	Excess of Earnings over Working Expenses.*	Passengers Carried.	Earnings.	Excess of Earnings over Working Expenses.*	Passengers Carried.
Year ended 30th June, 1931 ...	£ 2,894,285	(—) £ 11,060	253,243,078	£ 164,186	(—) £ 51,864	13,103,723
Year ended 30th June, 1932 ...	3,117,334	262,885	268,908,596	187,888	(—) 7,195	17,497,845
July ...	221,392	7,276	19,624,627	12,543	(—) 3,335	1,156,986
August ...	209,959	(—) 6,387	18,607,992	12,299	(—) 3,473	1,134,479
September ...	209,059	7,688	18,527,948	12,243	(—) 5,693	1,129,314
October ...	226,287	9,515	20,023,810	14,663	(—) 1,044	1,381,753
November ...	264,651	21,781	23,020,704	15,724	(—) 714	1,493,809
December ...	298,783	47,300	25,981,876	18,996	2,041	1,784,276
1932.						
January ...	303,428	51,819	24,257,242	17,166	1,687	1,635,351
February ...	271,153	50,992	23,686,060	17,050	2,006	1,551,361
March ...	329,242	82,055	27,503,934	17,005	809	1,587,035
April ...	276,252	26,950	23,489,751	16,848	292	1,567,964
May ...	268,355	27,137	22,683,467	17,144	1,332	1,583,807
June ...	238,773	(—) 63,241	21,501,185	16,207	(—) 1,103	1,491,710
July ...	260,930	12,203	22,132,129	17,007	3,329	1,566,563
August ...	260,090	†	21,931,094	16,872	†	1,553,802

\* Interest and Sinking Fund on loan capital are not included as working expenses. The amount of interest chargeable against the tramways in 1930-31 was £455,725, exclusive of exchange. (—) Denotes excess of working expenses over earnings. † Not available.

## 12. MOTOR VEHICLES.

NUMBER OF REGISTERED MOTOR VEHICLES (N.S.W.), AS AT VARIOUS DATES.

Class.	30th June—				31st July, 1932.	31st August, 1932.
	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.		
Cars ... ..	162,298	169,495	154,096	143,970	144,112	144,029
Lorries and Vans ... ..	41,689	45,309	41,788	38,618	38,759	38,926
Cycles ... ..	30,937	29,410	25,453	22,741	22,696	22,759
Buses ... ..	583	640	588	362	353	352
Cabs ... ..	1,300	1,340	1,078	1,070	1,068	1,071

### Decrease.

	Cars.	Lorries. and Vans.	Cycles.
Three months ended 31st May, 1932 ...	441	126	74
" " 31st August, 1932	122	(+) 322	129

+ Denotes an increase.

### AVERAGE Weekly Number of New Cars Registered.\*

Year.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1930 ...	394	361	285	200	199	196	181	183	135	141	141	132
1931 ...	78	83	69	88	59	55	47	45	45	55	60	53
1932 ...	55	61	63	58	55	53	61	71	...	...	...	...

\* Represents average for four weeks ending on first Tuesday in succeeding month.

## SECTION D.—FINANCIAL.

### 13. SAVINGS BANK DEPOSITS (N.S.W.).

Date.	Amount of Deposits.	Date.	Amount of Deposits.
1929—June 30 ... ..	£ 85,727,514	1931—November 30 ... ..	£ 72,831,264
1930—June 30 ... ..	82,465,430	December 31 ... ..	72,503,441
September 30 ... ..	78,552,912	1932—January 31 ... ..	72,068,911*
December 31 ... ..	73,406,775	February 29 ... ..	71,259,468*
1931—March 31 ... ..	70,773,167	March 31 ... ..	70,766,850
June 30 ... ..	69,810,769	April 30 ... ..	69,678,291*
July 31 ... ..	69,506,448	May 31 ... ..	69,490,437*
August 31 ... ..	70,373,579	June 30 ... ..	71,647,869†
September 30 ... ..	71,448,529	July 31 ... ..	71,172,593*
1931—October 31 ... ..	72,208,328		

\* Approximate.

† Includes accrued interest.

## 14. TRADING BANKS—ADVANCES AND DEPOSITS (N.S.W.).

TOTAL (including Commonwealth and Rural Banks, and including Government Business).

June Quarter.	Deposits.	Advances, &c., and Government Securities.	Excess of Advances over Deposits, &c.
	thousand £	thousand £	thousand £
1930 ... ..	130,693	151,024	20,331
1931 ... ..	121,616	136,353	14,737
1932 ... ..	111,172	138,639	27,467

## 15. PRIVATE BUSINESS IN PRIVATE BANKS (N.S.W.).

(Excluding Commonwealth and Rural Banks, and excluding Government Deposits and Government Securities in Private Trading Banks.)

June Quarter.	Deposits.			Advances, &c.	Excess of Advances over Deposits.	Ratio of Advances to Deposits.
	Bearing Interest (Fixed).	Not Bearing Interest (Current).	Total.			
	thousand £	thousand £	thousand £	thousand £	thousand £	per cent.
1930 ... ..	65,516	40,676	106,192	107,475	1,283	101.2
1931 ... ..	63,520	34,890	98,410	97,360	(—) 1,050	98.9
1932 ... ..	56,294	34,876	91,170	92,189	1,019	101.1

## 16. INTER-BANK CLEARINGS (SYDNEY).

(Value of cheques drawn on a Bank other than the Bank in which they were Deposited.)

Month.	1929.	1930.	1931.*	1932.*	1929.	1930.	1931.*	1932.*
	Amount—Million £				Index Numbers.			
January ... ..	86.2	78.2	67.4	46.7†	1038	990	809	622†
February ... ..	88.1	75.5	63.8	47.3†	1047	958	808	617†
March ... ..	89.8	83.7	69.9	42.7†	1058	950	807	591
April ... ..	89.7	68.6	62.4	43.5†	1093	926	811	591
May ... ..	89.7	76.7	54.0	46.1†	1087	920	768	591
June ... ..	84.8	71.7	57.1	51.8†	1089	893	741	655†
July ... ..	88.8	73.7	48.9	46.8†	1061	895	663	631†
August ... ..	84.1	58.4	45.5	46.0†	1078	850	648	634†
September ... ..	78.7	61.7	54.6	...	1073	825	643	...
October ... ..	89.1	71.5	56.0	...	1057	802	655	...
November ... ..	85.5	65.8	50.6†	...	1026	806	658†	...
December ... ..	88.9	86.8	52.9†	...	1014	803	635†	...

\* Adjusted by elimination of abnormal transactions on account of Governments.

† Unadjusted on account of amalgamation.

† Adjusted on account of amalgamation—Subject to revision.

‡ State Government banking transactions suspended. Index not ascertainable.

Inter-bank clearings are regarded as an approximate measure of changes in the general volume of business transactions provided they are considered in conjunction with changes in price levels.

The index represents the ratio of each month's clearings to the average for the month concerned during the five years 1926–1930. This average is represented by 1,000 each month. Seasonal fluctuations have thus been eliminated. Casual fluctuations in monthly index numbers have been smoothed out by taking a three months' moving average, that is, the index shown above for each month is the average of the actual index of that month and the preceding two months. It may be compared vertically or horizontally.

No adjustment has been made for normal growth or change of price levels.

## 17. REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS (N.S.W.).

			Month of August.		Eight Months ended 31st August.	
			Consideration of Sales.	Amount of Mortgages.	Consideration of Sales.	Amount of Mortgages.
			£	£	£	£
1930	...	...	2,056,853	2,329,981	20,133,858*	25,566,324
1931	...	...	1,893,411	1,347,916	9,544,787	15,219,766
1932	...	...	1,113,733	642,356	7,363,942	5,799,048

\* Approximate.

The decrease is partly due to a lower level of values. Comparative figures for individual months are shown in Table 46 of the Statistical Bulletin of New South Wales for June quarter 1932.

## 18. LIENS ON CROPS AND WOOL AND MORTGAGES ON LIVESTOCK.

			Month of August.			Eight Months ended 31st August.		
			Crops.	Wool.	Livestock.	Crops.	Wool.	Livestock.
			£	£	£	£	£	£
1930	...	...	315,289	191,434	279,415	4,116,163	2,787,831	2,397,142
1931	...	...	299,266	132,803	131,468	4,609,906	3,069,483	1,974,023
1932	...	...	354,643	153,251	93,782	4,353,116	2,065,454	1,442,804

The amounts involved in liens amounted to £11,617,449 for the year 1931, compared with £11,154,265 for 1930.

The numbers involved in liens and mortgages were as follow :—

Eight Months ended 31st August.			Number of Crop Liens.	Number of Sheep subject to Liens on Wool.*	Number of Livestock under Mortgage.		
					Sheep.*	Cattle.	Horses.
1930	...	...	11,543	7,947,434	4,975,540	67,841	14,688
1931	...	...	10,605	9,569,369	7,398,623	89,727	19,754
1932	...	...	8,891	8,322,286	7,518,520	100,197	14,721

\* In many cases sheep are included under both headings.

## 19. BANKRUPTCIES.

Sequestrations and Deeds of Arrangement, New South Wales.

Year.			Month of August.		Eight Months ended 31st August.	
			Number.	Liabilities.*	Number.	Liabilities.*
1930	...	...	133	£ 215,371	804	£ 1,580,540
1931	...	...	102	485,124	954	2,065,176
1932	...	...	60	145,041	458	1,186,616

\* Gross liabilities before deducting assets.



## SECTION E.—GENERAL.

## 20. UNEMPLOYMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

		Middle of Quarter ended—			
		31st March.	30th June.	30th Sept.	31st Dec.
		per cent.	per cent.	per cent.	per cent.
1929	...	9.7	10.0	12.4	13.8
1930	...	16.3	21.0	23.3	26.3
1931	...	29.2	30.7	31.6	31.5
1932	...	31.8	33.2	...	...

The above figures are an estimate by Commonwealth Statistician representing proportion of unemployed members to total membership in unions reporting.

The estimate formerly made by the Director of State Labour Exchange has been discontinued as from the end of February.

## AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF WAGES PAID AND INDEX OF EMPLOYMENT.

Data are being sought under these headings.

## 21. STOCK EXCHANGE INDEX (SYDNEY).

The following index of the values of the principal Company shares on Sydney Stock Exchange embraces the ordinary shares of companies (excluding banking companies) whose business is conducted wholly or largely in New South Wales.

The prices of individual shares are unweighted, and the group averages are the means of the average monthly prices per £ of paid-up capital. The aggregate index is the average for the whole of the shares included in the groups with the addition of 24 miscellaneous shares. It represents the ratio of the average prices of ordinary shares to their par values.

Par Value of Shares = 100.

Month.	23 Manufacturing and Distributing Companies.	10 Retail Companies.	8 Public Utility Companies.	5 Pastoral and Finance Companies.	5 Insurance Companies.	Total* Companies 75.	34 Active Shares included in foregoing.
1929.							
July	178.8	172.9	129.9	158.8	231.6	169.4	168.8
1930.							
July	112.5	102.8	109.6	87.9	172.6	112.6	111.2
1931.							
January	81.2	66.7	90.8	60.2	134.6	81.4	85.3
February	80.8	66.1	90.0	61.2	127.5	80.0	84.8
March	82.9	71.5	88.9	80.7	132.1	83.7	90.2
April	82.9	71.3	89.1	81.5	137.6	85.1	90.7
May	81.7	67.9	86.7	79.8	126.8	82.6	88.5
June	78.2	66.5	89.4	78.0	120.0	80.1	85.4
July	77.3	65.9	90.8	79.3	119.0	79.5	83.5
August	76.1	62.9	89.3	77.6	118.3	77.4	80.6
September	72.3	60.2	87.9	75.2	121.3	74.4	77.2
October	77.4	64.3	90.6	84.8	129.8	78.9	84.2
November	88.0	73.5	95.1	95.9	143.9	87.7	94.4
December	92.6	74.5	98.5	95.4	153.7	91.5	98.6
1932.							
January	94.2	75.5	110.0	95.2	158.8	93.3	100.9
February	92.6	75.3	111.9	92.0	154.5	92.3	99.0
March	90.3	73.9	105.1	88.8	148.2	89.5	95.5
April	90.0	72.4	104.6	87.5	139.5	87.8	94.4
May	91.9	74.8	104.7	89.3	132.3	88.5	95.3
June	96.3	77.8	109.0	87.3	145.6	92.2	99.4
July	100.0†	78.0	112.1	94.9	152.0	95.3†	102.1
August†	106.1	83.2	116.5	106.1	155.2	100.4	108.4

\* Including 24 Miscellaneous Companies.

† Revised.

‡ Subject to revision.

## 22. CONSUMPTION OF GAS AND ELECTRICITY.

Index of Monthly Sales of Gas and Electricity (Sydney).  
(Based on number of units each equal to 3,412 British Thermal Units.)

Month.	Average, 1929 to 1931.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
January ... ..	1,000	1,031	1,013	956	929
February ... ..	1,000	1,044	981	974	949
March ... ..	1,000	1,018	1,011	971	952
April ... ..	1,000	1,036	1,004	960	956
May ... ..	1,000	1,055	1,000	944	951
June ... ..	1,000	1,035	999	966	987
July ... ..	1,000	1,052	987	960	967
August ... ..	1,000	1,061	998	940	973
September ... ..	1,000	1,085	979	936	...
October ... ..	1,000	1,093	972	934	...
November ... ..	1,000	1,093	961	946	...
December ... ..	1,000	1,043	983	973	...
Average (12 months)	1,000	1,054	991	955	...

## 23. INDEX OF WHOLESALE PRICES (SYDNEY).

Average for year 1911=100 in all cases.

Date.	Wool.	Wheat.	Butter.	Non-Rural. §	All Com- modities.	Average Rates of Exchange. ‡		
						Australia on London.	London on New York.	Australia on New York.
1911* ... ..	100	100	100	100	100	100	...	...
1929* ... ..	162	140	204	184	186	102	100	102
1930* ... ..	109	110	173	178	171	106	100	106
1931* ... ..	105	70	154	180	155	128	109	140
1931—January ...	91	62	152	175	154	119	100	119
July ... ..	98	64	156	183	155	130	100	130
August ... ..	88	62	156	185	154	130	100	130
September... ..	88	61	150	184	154	130	106	138
October ... ..	106	75	156	181	153	130	125	163
November ... ..	114	96	151	181	156	130	131	170
December ... ..	100	92	136	181	156	125	144	180
1932—January ...	105	89	132	180	154	125	142	178
February ... ..	102	90	136	180	155	125	141	176
March ... ..	93	88	142	180	153	125	134	168
April ... ..	88	89	149	178	154	125	130	163
May ... ..	87	91	138	178	152	125	132	165
June ... ..	86	86	141	178	152	125	133	166
July ... ..	94	86	149	178	152	125	137	171
August ... ..	100	92	151	178†	153†	125	140	174

\* Average for year.

† Subject to revision.

‡ Approximate.

|| Revised.

§ Includes only those (non-rural) primary, manufactured and imported commodities which are included in the index for all commodities. Highly manufactured articles are not included. The individual items are listed on pages 488 and 489 of the "Official Year Book of New South Wales" for 1920.

All prices are in Australian currency.

## 24. OVERSEA WHOLESALE PRICE LEVELS.

	1931.						1932.					
	Sept.*	Oct.	Dec.	Nov.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.
Great Britain—												
Board of Trade (1924=100)	59.7	62.8	64.0	63.7	63.7	63.4	63.0	61.6	60.6	59.1	58.8	59.9
Economist (1927=100) .....	65.1	66.8	65.9	65.2	65.4	67.0	63.4†	62.4†	60.5†	58.8†	61.0†	61.9†
United States—												
Irving Fisher (1926=100) ...	68.7	68.3	68.3	67.0	65.0	63.7	63.1	62.2	61.0	59.6	60.4	61.6

\* Gold standard suspended by Great Britain 21st September, 1931.

† Fortnight ended 6th April, 4th May, 1st June, 29th June, 10th August, 24th August.

|| Three weeks.

## 25. PRICES OF METALS.

Average Monthly Spot Prices of Metals (London Exchange, English Currency).

Date.	Silver (Standard).		Lead.		Spelter.		Tin (Standard).		Copper (Standard).	
	per oz.		per ton.		per ton.		per ton.		per ton.	
1931.	s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
September ... ..	1	2.10	11	19 7	11	16 4	117	17 10	31	11 1
October ... ..	1	5.15	13	5 0	12	19 7	127	0 10	35	0 1
November ... ..	1	7.39	14	10 8	14	0 10	132	18 10	35	18 1
December ... ..	1	8.02	15	5 6	14	11 9	138	19 7	38	6 6
1932.										
January ... ..	1	7.62	15	2 1	14	12 6	140	5 7	39	10 1
February ... ..	1	7.57	14	11 4	14	1 7	139	4 8	36	19 8
March ... ..	1	6.34	12	9 9	12	16 5	129	18 3	33	1 9
April ... ..	1	4.92	11	7 3	11	16 3	109	0 11	29	19 11
May ... ..	1	4.87	10	17 1	12	11 2	122	7 6	28	12 0
June ... ..	1	4.84	9	15 0	11	14 2	114	12 11	26	18 4
July ... ..	1	4.93	9	19 8	11	15 6	125	19 6	26	2 6
August ... ..	1	6.00	11	9 5	13	14 5	142	2 5	31	9 1
September (1st to 15th)...	1	6.24	13	6 8	15	11 2	153	11 9	35	13 3

With the depreciation of the English pound as from 21st September prices rose in terms of English currency. During the first half of October prices showed little variation, but from the latter half of that month until the middle of January, 1932, there was a sustained rise, followed by a recession until July and a recovery in August and September.

## 26. SUMMARY.

The following table provides some indication of trends in 1931 and 1932, in respect of the principal activities for which it is possible to indicate general trends by monthly figures:—

Refer to Table No. ...	16	9	6	5	7	10	22	11
Month.	Index of Bank Clearings.	Value of Goods sold at Wholesale.	Value of Goods sold by certain Factories.	Quantity of Coal Hauled by Railways.	Value of City and Suburban Building Permits. (d).	Number of Passengers Journeys on Railways.	Index of Quantity of Gas and Electricity Consumed.	Tramway Revenue.
1931.		£ (b)	£ (b)	tons (a)	£ (a)	(c)		£ (a)
January ... ..	809	933	198	296	107	101	956	284
February ... ..	808	971	199	337	143	98	974	232
March ... ..	807	964	198	367	164	107	971	254
April ... ..	811	1,137	187	282	255	100	960	249
May ... ..	768	981	193	399	82	102	944	246
June ... ..	741	1,071	188	410	78	106	966	240
July ... ..	663	965	199	411	84	97	960	234
August ... ..	648	910	185	312	88	101	940	222
September ... ..	643	1,045	189	369	42	100	936	221
October ... ..	655	1,047	191	351	45	98	934	241
November ... ..	658	1,051	205	350	53	108	946	280
December ... ..	635	1,147	226	337	31	112	973	318
1932.								
January ... ..	622	989	182	326	81	103	929	321
February ... ..	617	952	211	371	69	107	949	288
March ... ..	...	955	227	385	129	119	952	346
April ... ..	...	1,017	202	378	78	110	956	293
May ... ..	...	1,017	199	386	139	116	951	285
June ... ..	655	961	182	396	78	111	987	255
July ... ..	631	1,009	189	417	111	110	967	278
August ... ..	634	...	...	370	134	...	973	277

(a) Thousands. (b) Ten thousands. (c) Hundred thousands. (d) New buildings and additions. \*Not available.

The general position in regard to primary industries might be gauged by reference to tables 1 to 4, and to the prices shown in the graph on page 1, and in table 23.

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Acknowledgment is made of the ready help given by numerous private organisations and businesses, and by various Government Departments in providing data for tables contained in this summary.

The figures for the most recent months are, in general, subject to revision.

Bureau of Statistics, 36 Young-street, Sydney.

23rd September, 1932.